

A new *Dermomurex* species and a record of  
*Dermomurex angustus* (Verco) (Gastropoda :  
Muricidae) from Western Australia

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**ABSTRACT**

A new species, *Dermomurex (Dermomurex) raywalkeri* n.sp. is named and compared with *Dermomurex goldsteini* (Tenison-Woods, 1876). A specimen of *Dermomurex (Dermomurex) angustus* (Verco, 1895) is illustrated and is the first record of the species from southern Western Australia.

**INTRODUCTION**

In a review of the genus *Dermomurex*, Vokes (1985) illustrated most Australian species, Recent and fossil. She named 5 fossil forms and transferred 2 taxa that had initially been assigned to *Trophon* to *Dermomurex (Dermomurex)*. At that time, only 3 Australian species were assigned to *Dermomurex (Dermomurex)*: *Dermomurex (D.) goldsteini* (Tenison-Woods, 1876) (Recent and fossil); *Dermomurex (D.) angustus* (Verco, 1895) (Recent), and *Dermomurex (D.) garrardi* Vokes, 1985 (fossil).

*Dermomurex (D.) raywalkeri* n.sp., described here, is the fourth Australian species. No other *Dermomurex* s.s. species are known from the Indo-Pacific, excluding the eastern Pacific American species. I also record here the first Western Australian specimen of *Dermomurex (Dermomurex) angustus* (Verco, 1895), a species previously only known from Gulf St Vincent, South Australia.

**Genus: *Dermomurex* Monterosato, 1884**

New name for *Poweria* Monterosato, 1884 not Bonaparte, 1841.

Type-species by monotypy : *Murex scalarina* Bivona-Bernardi, 1832 = *Murex scalaroides* Blainville, 1829.



1-1a. *Dermomurex (Dermomurex) raywalkeri* n.sp., holotype. 8.8 x 4 mm.

2. Protoconch of *Dermomurex (D.) raywalkeri* n.sp. x 35 (paratype H. Turner collection).

***Dermomurex (Dermomurex) raywalkeri* n.sp.**

**Figures 1, 2**

**Description**

Small for the genus, probably not adult, from 7.8 to 9 mm high, moderately elongate. Aperture ovate. Columellar lip smooth, completely adherent to last whorl. No obvious anal notch. Exterior and interior of outer lip smooth. Spire high, equal to height of aperture and canal, consisting of 1½ glossy, smooth, rounded protoconch whorls and 4 to 5 weakly shouldered teleoconch whorls. Suture deeply impressed.

Axial ornamentation on first teleoconch whorl of 7 high, thin varices overlapping onto protoconch; 7 varices on second whorl and 6 on third and later whorls. Varices overlapping and connected to preceding whorl. Last whorl bearing 6 flange-like varices, forming an angle of approximately 110° with preceding whorl at shoulder margin. No other axial sculpture. Spiral sculpture of 2 to 3 faint impressed striae in intritacalx: 1 very shallow in middle of whorl and 2 on anterior part; penultimate whorl with 1 anterior, impressed stria, just above suture of last whorl; striae extending onto varices. Except for striae, entire intritacalx surface smooth. When intritacalx removed, coarse spiral striae apparent and probably cover entire shell. Siphonal canal short and broad with previous canals fitting within each other; slightly bent backward. Entire shell covered by a white to very pale yellowish finely striate intritacalx.

**Type Material**

Holotype no. 372-86, Western Australian Museum.

1 paratype H. Turner collection.

1 paratype R. Houart collection.

**Type Locality**

Western Australia, Whitfords, just north of Perth off Pinneroo Point, ½ mile south of Sandy Island (31°51'S; 115°44'E), under rock, limestone reef, 10m, leg Ray Walker, Feb. 1984; only 3 specimens known.

**Etymology**

Named for Mr. Ray Walker (Rossmoyne, Western Australia) who sent these specimens.

**Discussion**

Only 3 Recent species of *Dermomurex (Dermomurex)* have been named previously from the Indo-West Pacific, and only 1 is similar to *D. raywalkeri*: *Dermomurex (Dermomurex) goldsteini* (Tenison-Woods, 1876). The species was discussed and 2 specimens were illustrated by Vokes (1985):

50, pl. 1, figs 5-6). *Dermomurex goldsteini* has 4 to 6 vague spiral cords and very faint striae. Spiral striae probably cover the entire surface of the new species but there is no trace of spiral cords. *Dermomurex goldsteini* is more globose, has wider varices and is not sculptured with impressed spiral striae as is *Dermomurex (D.) raywalkeri* n.sp.



3. *Dermomurex (Dermomurex) angustus* (Verco, 1895). Hopetoun, Western Australia, intertidal reef; 13 x 5.5 mm (H. Turner collection).

***Dermomurex (Dermomurex) angustus* (Verco, 1895)**

**Figure 3**

*Trophon angustus* Verco, 1895 : 86, pl. 1, figs 6, 6a.

*Dermomurex (Dermomurex) angustus* (Verco, 1895), Vokes, 1985:51, pl. 1, figs 8-9 (paratypes figured).

A living specimen of this species was found at Hopetoun, Western Australia, a noteworthy range extension as it was previously only known from the type locality: Gulf St. Vincent, South Australia. Moreover, the species, originally said to be found in "deep water", was found at Hopetoun on an intertidal reef.

Dimensions are almost the same; the largest paratype illustrated by Vokes (1985) is 10.6 mm high and 4.5 mm in diameter. The Western Australian specimen measures 13 x 5.5 mm.

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